AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS CONTINUED. Following a prolonged discussion on the recognition of Austria's pre-war frontiers (Article 5 of the draft) which failed to achieve any progress in view of the continued support of Yugoslav claims on Carinthia by the Soviet Delegation, the Foreign Ministers' Deputies, on March 24th, decided to abandon this point for the time being and to pass on to the discussion of other unagreed Articles. Article 16 of the draft dealing with refugees and displaced persons was then taken up. The Soviet Deputy offered to agree to the inclusion of the principle of voluntary repatriation on two conditions. The first was that the term "refugee" be dropped, leaving only the term "displaced person". The second condition was that Austria be barred from giving relief to persons who for "hostile reasons" refused to accept aid from their governments or refused to return to their country of origin. This proposal was opposed by the representatives of the United States, Britain and France. The United States Deputy Samuel Reber said that to bar from relief persons who refused to go voluntarily back to their countries of origin was tantamount to forcing them to return or to starve.

A detailed report on the London negotiations made to the Austrian Cabinet on March 22nd by Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber was unanimously approved by his colleagues. According to Dr. Gruber, the insistence of the Soviet Union to alter Austria's pre-war frontiers in favor of Yugoslavia, to dismember the Province of Carinthia against the declared will of its population, and to impose reparation payments on Austria were still the main obstacle to the rapid conclusion of an Austrian Treaty. These demands are absolutely incompatible with Austria's international status. The Treaty talks, Dr. Gruber added, will nevertheless be continued, in the hope that the Soviet Union will finally alter its stand. Contrary to certain allegations, Dr. Gruber pointed out, the Deputies of the Western Powers were fully cooperating in the preparation of an Austrian Treaty. As for the Austrian Government, Dr. Gruber concluded, it has taken the initiative for a resumption of the London talks and it will continue to make every effort to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion.

CHANCELLOR FIGL DECLARES AUSTRIA WILL NOT BECOME A "PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY". Austria will definitely not tolerate the establishment of an autonomous state in Carinthia, Chancellor Figl stated on March 20th at a conference of the Austrian Farmer's Federation ("Oesterreichischer Bauernbund") in Salzburg. Such a "10th Federal State" would only serve the purpose of transforming the Austrian Republic into a "People's Republic" -- after the attempt to do so met with failure in Vienna, Lower Austria and the Burgenland (i.e. in the Russian zone), Dr. Figl added. But the Austrian people have seen through this scheme and will remain firm in their unequivocal stand. Furthermore, Austria's exemplary constitutional guarantees to minority groups have enabled the Slovenes in Austria to attain a far-reaching cultural autonomy, and the overwhelming majority of Slovenes have repeatedly expressed their desire to remain part and parcel of Austria. The Austrian Chancellor went on to say that his country would make no further concessions above and beyond its clearly-defined position on the two disputed questions of an "autonomous zone" and the payment of reparations.

Dr. Figl then pointed to the country's notable reconstruction achievements in the face of great difficulties and at the expense of many sacrifices and much hard work by the entire population. These economic, social and cultural strides were made under the most adverse conditions imaginable. The high occupation costs especially were an almost unbearable burden on Austria's economic structure. The Chancellor stated that with the close to 5 billion schillings Austria paid for occupation costs since the end of the war, it would have been possible to rebuild all the homes destroyed in the war, electrify the entire Austrian rail network or replace the country's antiquated industrial machinery with the latest modern equipment. During 1948, the Austrian Government had made repeated but futile attempts to induce the occupation powers to waive payment of occupation costs. But with

the exception of the United States, all occupation powers continue to insist on the payment of occupation costs by Austria. Continuing to pay these costs from the country's normal budget, as heretofore, Dr. Figl continued, would undoubtedly have led to an inflation and the Austrian Government was therefore forced to adopt the unpopular measure of levying an "occupation tax" in order not to endanger the country's economy. That this was the proper step to take was made abundantly clear to every Austrian by the violent attacks levelled against the measure by the Communists, whose purposes would have been much better served if the country had plunged down the road of inflation, its economy disrupted, its population pauperized and its internal order and security jeopardized. This explains the vociferous outcry of the Communists and their attempt to label the new tax an "army tax" which they allege would be used to finance the creation of an Austrian army. Dr. Figl assured his audience that the tax would naturally be used only to defray occupation costs and not for the establishment of an army, adding that Austria's neighboring "People's Democracies" had, on the other hand, expanded and built up their armed forces to such an extent that the Communists really had no reason to agitate so strongly against the new tax. Furthermore, the Big Powers, Soviet Russia included, had pronounced themselves in favor of the creation of an Austrian army after completion of the State Treaty, Chancellor Figl concluded.

AUSTRIA AND THE ATIANTIC PACT. The Atlantic Pact was described as a potential instrument for the preservation of world peace by Minister of the Interior, Oskar Helmer, at a Socialist Party Rally in Puchberg, Lower Austria. The Austrian Minister characterized the pact as one of the great international agreements of all times, adding that Austria -- hedged in between East and West as she was -- had to follow a careful policy in order to avoid being dragged into the world's political conflicts. Austria's best protection would be her admission to the United Nations. Despite Soviet vetoes against her admission, Austria should persevere in requesting membership in the world organization, Minister Helmer concluded.

AUSTRIA GRANTS DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL. The Austrian Federal Government, on a proposal by Chancellor Leopold Figl, granted de facto recognition to the new state of Israel on March 16, 1949.

AUSTRIAN ENVOY STRESSES NECESSITY OF STATE TREATY. The urgent necessity for completion of the Austrian State Treaty was again stressed, this time by Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, the Austrian envoy to Washington. In a radio interview the Austrian diplomat granted commentator Peter Lindt over station WEVD in New York, Dr. Kleinwaechter stated that the treaty was long overdue and described as grotesque the fact that Austria, which had been the first country to be overrun by Hitler was still -- four years after the end of the war and its "liberation" -- occupied by foreign troops, whereas the so- called satellite states such as Bulgaria, Roumania and Hungary had long since received their peace treaties and thereby reg[illegible] their national sovereignty. Referring to the exorbitant dem[illegible] forward by the present Yugoslav Government on parts of C[illegible] Styria, the Austrian diplomatic representative empha[illegible] the Austrian Constitution guaranteed fullest protection to [illegible] small Slovene minority of whose loyalty to Austria there was not the slightest doubt.

In the second part of his interview, Dr. Kleinwaechter drew attention to the domestic political stability in Austria where no coups d'état by radical parties need be feared, and spoke of the economic rehabilitation the country was progressively achieving.

AUSTRIAN RAILROAD EXPERT PERISHES IN RUSSIAN CONCENTRATION CAMP. Paul Katscher, one of Austria's leading railroad experts, who in December 1947 had been abducted by the Russians, is said to have perished in the Russian concentration camp of Lvov on August 10, 1948, according to a report published by the Vienna evening paper "Wiener Kurier". News of his death comes from a prisoner who was interned together with engineer Katscher, but who managed to escape. Paul Katscher was one of the most prominent machine construction engineers in Austria and had participated in numerous international conferences on railroad matters. In December 1947 he was scheduled to leave for Geneva as Austrian representative to the European conference for the return of rolling stock and railroad equipment appropriated during the war. But the day before his departure he was kidnapped by the Russians on the unsubstantiated accusation that he had been engaged in espionage.

Before being transported to Russia, Paul Katscher had first been interned in a Russian prison in Austria.

500 DISPLACED PERSONS LEAVE AUSTRIA FOR AUSTRALIA. Early in March some 500 displaced persons who had been marking time for the past few years in camps in Styria and Carinthia sailed for Australia which they plan to make their new home. After five years of residence in Australia, where they may freely select their place of employment, these immigrants will be granted Australian nationality. Another 800 DP's will leave for Australia shortly, after their documents have been checked and processed by the Australian Commission.

MAUTHAUSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP TO BE RETAINED AS MEMORIAL. The largest Nazi concentration camp in Austria at Mauthausen, near Linz, where thousands upon thousands of political prisoners were forced to labor day and night in stone quarries, later to be gassed and burned in the camp's own crematory, will be preserved in its original form as a memorial for posterity, according to a recent decision by the Austrian Federal Government. A chapel will be built, and the former prisoners' barracks, the gas chamber, the crematory and the cells where inmates were put to death by shooting in the nape of the neck, will be reestablished in their old form. A memorial stone with a Latin inscription will be erected on the assembly and inspection ground and a memorial tablet will be unveiled at the camp's cemetery. The watch towers and the barbed wire fences will also be preserved in their original form. Nearly one million schillings will be needed for the work which is to be completed this spring.

RESTITUTION PROCEEDINGS IN AUSTRIA. On the basis of the 1st Restitution Act, 8,056 requests were filed with the Austrian authorities by the end of 1948, according to a report by the Federal Ministry of Property Protection and Economic Planning ("Bundesministerium fuer Vermoegenssicherung und Wirtschaftsplanung"). Of these, 368 were withdrawn or transferred, 3,873 favorably settled and 675 rejected. An additional 1,740 cases are now being processed and 1,400 await handling.

Requests filed on the basis of the 2nd Restitution Act totalled 738, 29 of which were withdrawn or transferred, 213 favorably settled and 93 rejected. 275 of these cases are now being processed and 128 still await action.

Requests based on the 3rd Restitution Act amount to 20,153. Of these, 1,326 were withdrawn, 669 transferred, 3,196 granted, 2,265 adjusted and 1,389 rejected. 11,308 requests have not yet been processed.

SUCCESS OF VIENNA SPRING FAIR. Five hundred thousand people visited the 1949 Vienna Spring Fair this March between the 12th and the 20th. Fifty thousand of these poured into the Austrian capital from the federal states and more than 2000 came from abroad. The Fair gave the visitors an impressive picture of Austria's industrial and artisan production. The main Fair palace was stocked full with textiles, leather goods, jewelry items and other luxury articles; the great Fair grounds in the Prater were crowded with exhibits displayed by the machine industry, furniture manufacturers, agricultural producers, the food-processing industry and the Austrian tobacco monopoly. The electrical industry and radio manufacturers were also extensively represented. The main feature of the agricultural exhibit was the display of breeding cattle from Austria's Alpine regions.

Thanks to the decrease in prices, the increase in quality and the assurance of quicker deliveries, the domestic and foreign transactions concluded during the Fair were described as excellent by Fair officials. Although domestic demand continued to remain great, the abundance of supply has again made buyers discriminating in their choice of merchandise. The domestic market was especially active in women and men's clothes, in the shoe and leather branch including nylon products, in furniture, and in the electrical supply industry which sold one quarter of its yearly motor production. There were also large-scale domestic sales of electric bulbs, radio sets, agricultural machinery and equipment for the food-processing industry.

A great number of orders were also placed by foreign firms. Here is a partial list of some of the Austrian items ordered for export to foreign countries: the Netherlands (lighters, mirrors, toilet articles, paper, frame houses, agricultural machinery, kitchen equipment); Switzerland (jewelry, mirrors, paper, machine tools); Denmark (watches, frame houses, cigarette machines); Sweden (lighters, cigarette machines); Hungary (sports goods); Italy (sports goods, mirrors, razor

blades, agricultural machinery); Czechoslovakia (paper goods); France (agricultural machinery, mine locomotives, machine tools); Belgium (agricultural machinery); Yugoslavia (construction machinery); Turkey (construction machinery, cigarette machines); Greece (cigarette machines); Israel (household articles, construction machinery); Egypt (razor blades, electrical appliances). Several Scandinavian and Western European countries were keenly interested in furs and fashion articles. Overseas buyers were also present at the Vienna Fair. Bolivian and Argentine commercial representatives placed orders for pianos and other South American firms showed interest in machine tools, agricultural implements and frame houses. Australia too was interested in imports of construction machinery and frame houses.

Unfortunately a large-scale fire broke out on the third day of the Fair: one of the largest exhibit halls burned down completely causing damage estimated at over five million schillings; more than 200 high-grade display articles, primarily office machines, were destroyed.

AUSTRIAN PREWAR PRODUCTION RECORDS TOPPED. Following is a list of average monthly production figures of a few leading industrial products with an indication of their percentage relationship to the production figures of the year 1937:

Item	Present monthly average		Percentage Increase (1937 equals 100%)
Spun rayon (staple fiber)	1,237	tons	841.5%
Nitrate of lime and ammonia (nitrogenous fertilizers)	25,800	tons	426.7%
Ball bearings	320,000	bearings	395.6%
Lime	20,100	tons	354.9%
Wrought products	1,500	tons	330.0%
Construction glass	300,000	sq. meters	300.0%
Matches	28,700,000	boxes	256.1%
Cement	84,000	tons	236.1%
Electric power	319,200,000	kw-hrs	231.0%
Pig iron	60,200	tons	185.7%
Calcined soda	5,167	tons	147.0%
Motorcycles	732	vehicles	116.2%
Magnesite	38,000	tons	114.6%
Radio sets	13,900	sets	112.7%
Brown coal (lignite)	303,100	tons	112.2%
Natural steel	58,343	tons	107.8%
Rolled products	38,046	tons	106.7%
Electric bulbs	1,960,000	bulbs	106.5%
Newsprint	5,226	tons	100.2%

This favorable production development is still limited primarily to producers' goods, with most consumers' goods still far below prewar production levels. One reason for this discrepancy is the shortage of raw materials which in turn is caused by a lack of foreign exchange. Another is the favored treatment sistematically accorded the producers' goods industry with the purpose of hastening the country's overall economic rehabilitation since the latter is based on the production of capital goods and an increase in exports. But the production of consumers' goods is expected to pick up sharply this year, especially in the textile and leather industries, as a result of Marshall Plan deliveries.

AUSTRO-ITALIAN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED. After several months of negotiation, the Austro-Italian economic agreement was finally signed in Rome by the delegations of both countries on March 18th. The treaty which will be valid for one year covers an exchange of merchandise valued at 20 billion lire (about 40 million dollars). Under the treaty, Austria will send Italy mainly natural steel, pig iron, lumber and finished wood, paper, iron products, rubber goods and textiles in return for Italian fruit, vegetables, raw silk, artificial silk, hemp, mercury, sulphur, sulphuric acid, iron pyrites as well as various other semi-finished industrial products.

PRODUCTION OF AUSTRIAN TOBACCO MONOPOLY STILL RESTRICTED BY IMPORT DIFFICULTIES. With reference to the item "Austria combats cigarette black market" which appeared in the third issue of this bulletin on February 14, 1949, the Purchasing Organization of the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly reports that prior to the war Austria had imported about 10,000 tons of leaf tobacco per year from the Orient and from overseas areas. Thanks to barter transactions with Southeastern Europe and

with the help of the Marshall Plan, it was possible for Austria to increase its 1948/49 imports of tobacco to 8000 tons -- which is only 80% of prewar imports. Providing Marshall Plan funds continue to be available in at least the same amounts as heretofore, tobacco imports during the coming years are expected to be increased to 9000 tons per year. But Austria will have to reconcile herself to the fact that it will not be possible to raise these imports to prewar levels, if she is to accede to ECA wishes that dollar credits be used as sparingly as possible in order to achieve a properly adjusted balance of payment. Exports of Austrian cigarettes will therefore be impossible for the present time because of the shortage of unfinished tobacco.

STATE COAL SUBSIDIES TO BE DISCONTINUED. In accordance with Austria's policy to reduce state grants to private industry, all coal subsidies hitherto granted by the Government will be discontinued after April 1st. This measure will increase considerably the cost of domestic and imported coal. Hans Lauda, President of the Austrian Association of Industrialists, declared that industry would cooperate with coal suppliers in an effort to pass on to the consumer as little of the expected price increase as possible. Mr. Lauda warned, however, that because of the importance of coal for industrial production, coal dealers will have to reduce their profit margin and domestic coal producers limit the inevitable price increase to a minimum, if industrial prices are to be kept in line and wages to remain stable.

LARGE ORDERS FOR AUSTRIA'S ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY. The largest Austrian firm for the production of heavy electric equipment, the "Elin AG", has received an order for two power generators of 70,000 kilovolt amperes each, and three power transformers for the Kaprun power station (Hohe Tauern, near Zell am See, Salzburg) which has been in process of construction for several years and which, when completed, will be one of Europe's largest power stations. The Kaprun station will produce much-needed winter current for the country's industry. This is the first time that such large power generators (which weigh 600 tons) will be produced in Austria proper. The country's expanded electrical industry is now in a position to fill these orders for heavy power equipment; heretofore they had been imported from Germany. Its production will take two years to complete. Austria is thereby saving millions of dollars and laying the foundation for future exports of such heavy electrical equipment.

AUSTRIA TO SUPPLY DIESEL MOTOR TRAINS TO SOUTH AMERICA. The largest Austrian locomotive works, the "Simmering-Graz-Pauker A.G." is about to sign contracts for large-scale deliveries of rolling stock to Argentina and Brazil. The Argentine National Railroads are interested in purchasing complete rail motor trains (comprising a Diesel locomotive, service car, mail car and 8 passenger cars - all rigidly coupled 4-axle cars). Their first order is for 12 million dollars worth of such rail equipment. Furthermore, Argentine industrial plants have ordered cranes and derrick cars also for a value of 12 million dollars from the same Austrian company. Brazil is likewise interested in purchasing derricks and railroad cars, but negotiations with that country have not yet been completed and a representative of the Austrian company has just left by air for South America to conclude contracts for these deliveries. Payment for this rolling stock will be made in kind, primarily in foodstuffs, coffee, cocoa and tobacco.

At the present time, Austria is also negotiating large delivery orders for machinery and equipment with other South American countries and agreements are expected to be concluded shortly. Austria's chances in developing these countries as markets for its industrial products are excellent because their shortage of hard currency is forcing them more and more to turn away from dollar and pound markets and enter into barter transactions with industrialized nations that can accept their own raw materials, especially food, in exchange.

RANSHOFEN ALUMINUM PLANT RESUMES PRODUCTION. The largest Austrian aluminum plant at Ranshofen which was forced to close down during the winter months because of the shortage of electric power of which it is a great consumer, has resumed production in mid-March. This year's output at Ranshofen is expected to reach 10,000 tons, about half of which is earmarked for the domestic market and the other half for export. Part of the aluminum exported will go to France in payment for the raw materials (aluminum oxide, bauxite) imported from that country by the aluminum industry. Aside from its own production, the Ranshofen plant will also work up foreign raw materials and export the

finished product abroad, purely on a labor compensation basis, with payment in dollars. After completion of the press-forge now being built, presumably by the middle of this year, the plant will also begin production of such intermediate or semi-finished aluminum products as sections and bars. Next year, completion of the rolling mill will enable Ranshofen to turn out sheet aluminum. But full use of the plant's tremendous productive capacity(only one third of which is being exploited at the present time) will become possible only after completion of the various power stations now in process of construction which will guarantee an adequate and regular supply of electric energy the whole year round. When operating at its full capacity, the Ranshofen plant consumes as much electric power as the entire metropolis of Vienna.

GABLONZ GLASSWARE - A NEW AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY. The first transactions were recently concluded for the export of "Gablonz" glassware from Austria to the United States, Switzerland and Italy. Thus a new Austrian export industry has successfully passed the first stage of its development and will now take its place in the production process of its new country of origin.

The first families of Gablonz glass workers arrived in Austria from Czechoslovakia in November 1945. Since then, about 1500 such families of glass workers expelled by the Czechs have been resettled in Austria, most of them in the Steyr region of Upper Austria. Some 150 Gablonz glass works have been established and merged into a common sales cooperative.

The City of Gablonz (Jablonec) in what was formerly the Sudeten area has for centuries been one of the world's leading production centers for artistic glassware (chandelier and lamp glass, artistic glass, rosaries, glass for Christmas tree trimmings and other glass jewelry). Many thousands of glassworker families had settled there and inherited the various handicraft glass production methods from generation to generation. Gablonz was able to retain its leading position because artistic glassware is only partly machine-produced; many stages of its production demand expert artisan knowledge which requires a minimum of 10 years apprenticeship. After the second World War, when Czechoslovakia expatriated the Sudeten Germans, the Gablonz glassworks were disrupted and its craftsmen expelled. Some of them went to Bavaria in Germany, but many came to Austria.

Austrian business circles and Government authorities immediately saw the importance and possibilities of these highly-skilled immigrants and placed housing and working facilities at their disposal. As early as the beginning of 1946, the first Gablonz immigrants already began turning out their special glasswares in Austria. This early output however was for the Austrian domestic market only and was not very large in scope. The profit from such initial production was invested in the purchase of machinery and in the two years that followed, a total of 22 glass pressing works were established. In addition, 4 glassworks with a productive capacity of 170,000 kgs per month also began operation during the same period. The groundwork was thus laid for an extensive export business, above and beyond production for domestic use. An Austrian bank has also extended a state-guaranteed credit to the new industry's sales cooperative in the amount of several million schillings which is to be used exclusively for the expansion of its export production. The principal export areas for Gablonz glassware are North and South America and the Mediterranean countries. The Vatican also represents an important export market because the souvenirs sold to the thousands of Catholic pilgrims (rosaries, religious jewelry) have been traditionally of Gablonz glass for the past hundred years. Since the successful beginning of glass production in Austria, Czechoslovak business circles have made repeated attempts to induce the Gablonz glass workers to return to their former homeland because it soon became apparent that a rehabilitation of this highly-specialized industry in Gablonz was impossible with untrained Czechoslovak workers. But the Gablonz glass artisans preferred to remain in Austria.

AUSTRIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS. Austria's textile industry is still to a considerable extent dependent on imports of cotton and wool, Franz Mayer-Gunthof, President of the Austrian Textile Manufacturers Association, declared at a recent press conference. Although the domestic production of staple fiber (spun rayon) has now reached a daily output of 50 tons which is sufficient to meet all inland requirements, Austria is still dependent on large imports for its supply of pure wool and cotton since the latter cannot be produced

domestically and the former only to a limited extent. The country's yearly requirements amount to some 23,000 tons of cotton and 7300 tons of wool. The 21,000 tons of cotton expected this year as part of the ERP program will cover the country's cotton needs almost fully, but the 3350 tons of wool it will be able to import represent less than half its needs. It will therefore still be necessary to continue making suits of mixed cloth, namely 50% pure wool and 50% spun rayon. Mr. Mayer-Gunthof further stated that the Austrian textile industry, despite its notable production achievements during the past year, was handicapped by its dangerously antiquated machinery. Some of the machines still used date back to the last century, he said. If the industry is to be able to meet international competition, large-scale investments will have to be made to modernize its equipment. Negotiations are now being conducted with the Government with a view to facilitating investments through tax reductions.

SHOE RATIONING TO BE LIFTED IN JUNE. The rationing of shoes in Austria will be entirely discontinued after June 1st, the Austrian Ministry of Trade announced. After that date, all footgear and leather goods will be obtainable without ration coupons. This year Austria will produce about 4 million pairs of leather shoes and 1 1/2 million pairs of summer shoes (in fabric with leather or rubber soles). The Czechoslovak shoe factory of "Bata" will supply another 600,000 pairs of leather shoes, thereby making a total of more than 6 million pairs, an annual supply sufficient to meet all domestic requirements. To these should be added the handmade mountain boots so popular in Alpine countries. Although no exact production figures are available for these, it is estimated that at least 300,000 pairs are turned out per year by the small workshops where they are made.

DIRECT PARIS - VIENNA AIR SERVICE INAUGURATED. A regular passenger service has just been inaugurated between Vienna and Paris by the "Mercure" Air Line in cooperation with "Air France". Two-engine "Beechcraft" planes will leave Paris on Mondays and Fridays, and Vienna on Tuesdays and Saturdays on this new direct schedule.

VIENNA SIGHT-SEEING POINT TO BE ACCESSIBLE BY CABLE CAR. The construction work on the cable railway leading up to the Leopoldsberg, famous sight-seeing point on the outskirts of Vienna, is expected to be completed by this summer. The funicular railway will cover a distance of about one kilometer and will negotiate an altitude differential of 250 meters (820 ft.). The valley end is located in the Vienna suburb of Kahlenbergerdorf on the banks of the Danube and the mountain stop is near the peak of the Leopoldsberg which is 1200 feet high. The Leopoldsberg towers above the Danube valley and is the last peak of any consequence in the Alpine chain which has its inception at the Italian and French Riviera and stretches diagonally across most of Europe. The cable railway is being constructed for use by so-called chair cars which will have a passenger capacity of 600 persons per hour. The valley station can be reached by trolley car from Vienna - Nussdorf and the mountain station by the "Wienerwald" mountain bus. A cable railway had already been constructed at this spot as far back as 1873 on the occasion of the Vienna World's Fair, but its operation was discontinued when the rack-and-pinion railway was built at the neighboring Kahlenberg. But after the first World War, service on this latter rail line was also stopped. The new cable railway thus represents the third mountain railway in the "Wienerwald".

NEW MEDICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUPERSONIC RESEARCH IN AUSTRIA. New epoch-making medical instruments, the result of extensive research in Austrian clinics during the past few years, were seen on display at the recent Health Exhibition in Vienna. The instruments are mounted on mobile equipment and are used both in diagnosis and therapy.

Supersonic waves are high frequency waves whose vibrations - more than about 20,000 oscillations per second - are beyond the audible limit of the human ear. The new instruments are based on such high-frequency mechanical vibrations whose sound-energy is trapped by modern tube generators, their sound pressure being many times greater than that of, for example, a cannon shot. The use and application of supersonic waves is a relatively new science, apart and different from any physical methods known heretofore. Since the middle of 1947, supersonic therapy has been systematically and clinically tested at the Bad Ischl (Upper Austria) State Institute. Under the direction of Dr. Dussik, a leading medical scientist who performed tests on himself to ascertain that supersonic treatment caused no damage to human tis-

sue, the Institute has since then subjected more than 400 patients to about 8000 individual high-frequency sound waves. The therapeutic results achieved were particularly successful in cases of subcutaneous and chronic rheumatic affections of individual parts of the body; in cases of joint, muscle and nerve pain or irritation; in cases of asthma, pulmonary dilation; and in cases of frostbite. One of the most noteworthy results of these treatments was their rapid pain deadening effect.

The Vienna University Clinic for Throat, Nose and Ear Diseases, under the direction of Prof. Wiethe, has for some time now given electrotherapeutic treatment with supersonic waves. Many auditory ailments which had been caused by injuries or meningitis, as well as certain forms of deafness could thus be cured to a far-reaching extent. Positive results were also achieved in cases of otosclerosis which had resisted every kind of therapy so far. Further experiments are being conducted at the Neurological University Clinic in Innsbruck.

11,319 STUDENTS ATTEND 1949 SPRING TERM AT VIENNA UNIVERSITY. The number of students attending Austrian universities has dropped to a more normal level and institutes of higher learning are no longer as overcrowded as they had been in the period immediately following the war. The University of Vienna, for example, still has 2139 more students than in 1938, but with the exception of the Catholic Theological Faculty, where student registration has increased by 100, the number of registrations in other faculties has decreased. In the Faculty of Medicine, this year's registrations dropped by 500 over last year's. The same is also true of the Faculty of Law where the number of students decreased by 200, and the Faculty of Philosophy where it diminished by 300 students. University circles describe this trend as a necessary and healthy one in view of the present overcrowding of the liberal professions.

ESPERANTO SUGGESTED AS REQUIRED SCHOOL COURSE. The names of Chancellor Leopold Figl and Minister of Education Felix Hurdes were among the 770,000 Austrians who signed a petition to the United Nations proposing the introduction of Esperanto, the international language, as a required course in all the schools of the world. The 1949 Austrian Esperanto Congress, to which numerous foreign delegations are expected, will be held in Graz from July 16th to the 20th.

VIENNA OPERA GUEST PERFORMANCE IN PARIS A SUCCESS. On March 22nd, the Vienna State Opera gave its first official guest performance in Paris with a presentation of Mozart's "Abduction from the Seraglio". The performance was under the musical direction of Prof. Krips and was enthusiastically received by both the public and the French press. Foreign Minister Schuman was among the many distinguished guests attending. The guest visit included 7 performances of the operas "Abduction from the Seraglio" and "The Marriage of Figaro".

TOP-RANKING VIENNA OPERA PRODUCER TO FILM "MARRIAGE OF FIGARO". The ranking producer and stage-manager of the Vienna State Opera, Oskar Fritz Schuh, will take a leave of absence from the State Opera this fall to devote all his time to the production of the operatic motion picture "The Marriage of Figaro", which is expected to tie him down at least until March 1950. After that date, Mr. Schuh will stage a new production both at the Vienna State Opera and at the Scala in Milan.

DANIZA ILITSCH RETURNS TO VIENNA OPERA. After an absence of almost two and a half years, Daniza Ilitsch has again returned to the Vienna State Opera, where her first appearance will be in "Aida". Despite her established success in the United States, Miss Ilitsch has expressed the desire to sing at least three months every year in Vienna. At the end of the opera season in Vienna, this summer, the dramatic soprano will leave her family which lives in Vienna and return to New York to fulfill her operatic engagements in that city.

The guest performances given by Anna Konetzni of the Vienna State Opera in Barcelona and Madrid during February and March were crowned with great success. Audiences cheered her wildly and Spanish music critics lavished columns of praise on her singing. Miss Konetzni has now returned to Vienna where she has resumed her work at the opera.

GOTTFRIED EINEM WRITING NEW OPERA BASED ON KAFKA THEME. Gottfried Einem, the composer of the opera "Danton's Death", is now composing the music for a new opera. Boris Blacher wrote the libretto which is

based on a Franz Kafka theme. The Austrian composer has just completed a serenade for two string orchestras which will be performed for the first time by the Paul Sacher Orchestra in Switzerland in the near future.

EDMUND EYSLER 75 YEARS OLD. On the occasion of his 75th birthday in March, the well-known Viennese composer Edmund Eysler received many glowing tributes both from official as well as private sources. Edmund Eysler is the composer of a large number of operettas, waltzes and folk songs. His most famous works are "Die Gold'ne Meisterin" and "Bruder Straubinger", the title role of which was first performed and rendered famous by the Viennese actor Alexander Girardi.

MOZART RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN SALZBURG. The Board of Trustees of the Salzburg "Mozarteum" decided to reopen in Salzburg the Central Mozart Research Institute ("Zentralinstitut fuer Mozartforschung") which the Nazis had dissolved in 1938. The purpose of this institute will be to keep the various Mozart societies in the world informed of current Mozart research and intensify their work. An international conference of Mozart scholars is also being planned in connection with this year's Salzburg Festival.

AUSTRIAN SOCCER TEAMS OUTPLAY TURKEY AND LUXEMBURG. On March 20th, two Austrian national soccer teams won a double international victory by nosing out the Turkish team 1 to 0 in the Vienna Stadium before 62,000 cheering fans, and in Linz, by beating the Luxemburg team 3 to 0 in the presence of 15,000 spectators. The victory over Turkey is significant because the game was an elimination match in the World Soccer Championships.

BADGASTEIN, KITZBUEHEL, SEEFELD DEVELOP MOTOR SKI JORRING. This winter's events in Salzburg and Tyrolian resorts greatly stimulated the interest of European sportsmen in the daring sport of motor ski-jorring which attracts motor-cycle sportsmen who are especially numerous in Europe. Badgastein provided a most spectacular relay race which combined a down-hill with ski-jorring and cross country running.

MOTORISTS TO AUSTRIA CAN NOW OBTAIN GAS COUPONS IN NEW YORK. The gasoline coupons now obtainable either from the Austrian State Tourist Department, 48 East 48th Street, New York 17, N.Y., or through the American Automobile Association make it possible for motorists to do away with the necessity of obtaining ration books when traveling in Austria.

FINAL REGISTRATION DATE FOR AUSTRIAN PROPERTY DECLARATION EXTENDED. The final registration date by which individuals residing abroad must file their declaration of Austrian property, for purposes of the single property assessment (einmalige Vermoegensabgabe), has been extended to June 30, 1949. Declarations should be sent to the "Finanzamt" (Finance Department), Singerstrasse 17, Vienna I.

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